

Applicati n N .: 10/037,094
Amendment dated: September 23, 2003
Reply t Office Acti n f: July 17, 2003

MAT-8195US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,564,183 to Satou, et al. It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

. . . a board inspection unit for inspecting said electrode and evaluating positional deviation of said electrode, said board inspection unit situated before said printer.

The board inspection unit is supported by the originally filed application as item M1 in Applicants' Figures. No new matter has been added. As set forth in Satou at column 8, lines 10-12, Satou's analyzing unit receives data which has been acquired by printing data analyzing part 22, mounting data analyzing part 24 and soldering data analyzing part 26. Applicants' claim 1, however, includes a board inspection unit which it neither disclosed nor suggested by Satou. Specifically, Applicants' board inspection unit inspects the board before Applicants' printer prints solder onto the electrode formed on the board. Satou, by contrast, does not inspect an electrode prior to being printed with solder to determine whether there is positional deviation of the electrodes. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Applicants' claims 3, 4, and 6, while not identical to claim 1, also include respective features relating to inspection of an electrode to determine positional deviation. Again, this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Satou. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Satou.

The remaining dependent claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on their respective independent claims. Accordingly, allowance of Applicants' claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants have also added new claim 7. Claim 7 clarifies the updating of the main controller recited as item F in claim 1. No new matter has been added.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

DNC/fp/ds

Dated: September 23, 2003

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